



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities				
County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Boulder	Farm	1	63.6	\$95,656
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Montezuma	Ranch	2	936	\$1,363,000
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Saguache	Ranch	8	4,606	\$1,734,520
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		15	7,024	\$4,405,632

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed			
Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality	18	10	\$203,815
Grassland	36	17	\$250,315
Wildlife	7	6	\$91,463
Riparian	0	0	\$0
Forestland	2	1	\$75,000
Waste Management	0	0	\$0
Total	63	34	\$620,593

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Statewide Activities	
Number of Applications Received	22
Number of Applications Contracted	10
Dollar Amount Approved	\$3,090,800
Acres Under Contract	2,315
Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.	

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	9
Number of Applications Contracted	3
Dollar Amount Approved	\$64,223
Acres Under Contract	2,529.9

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Activities	
Applications Received	5
Applications Contracted	2
Dollars Approved	\$1.6 Million
Acres Under Contract	8,000

North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed



Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff

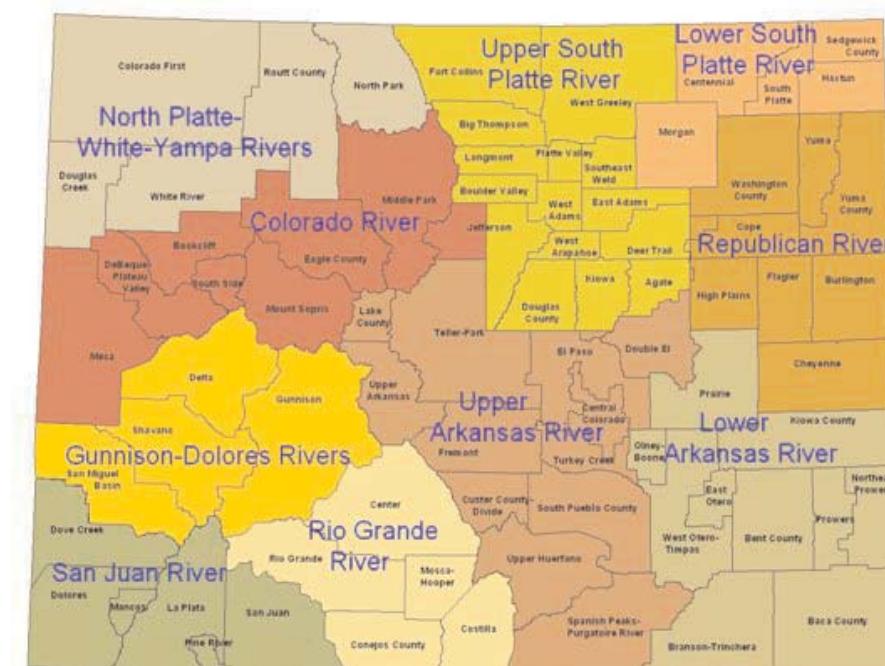


Watershed Profile

The North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed totals 7,529,334 acres and includes all and/or portions of Garfield, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Craig, Meeker, Steamboat Springs, and Walden USDA Field Service Centers to provide technical assistance, as well as cost-share and incentive program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Lower North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed, five Conservation Districts organized a locally-led watershed work group which identified its major resource concerns as water quality and quantity, weed control, land use management, and riparian areas. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and Conservation Districts

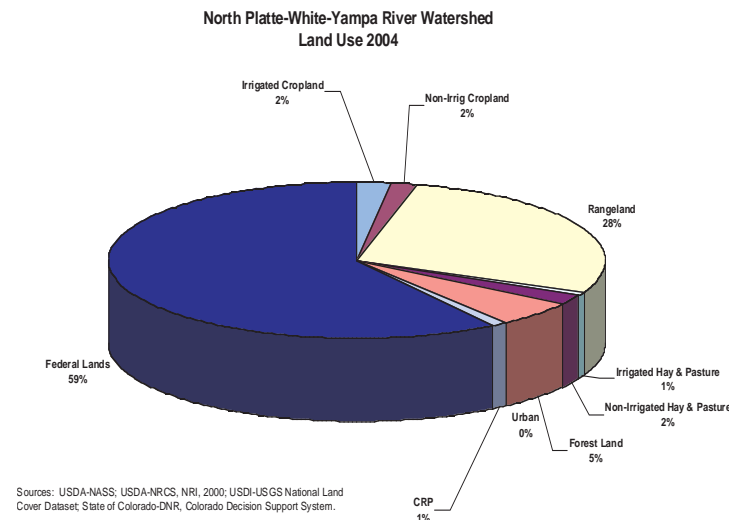


High Priority Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

Water Quality Water Quantity Weed Control Land Use Management Riparian Areas

Land Use

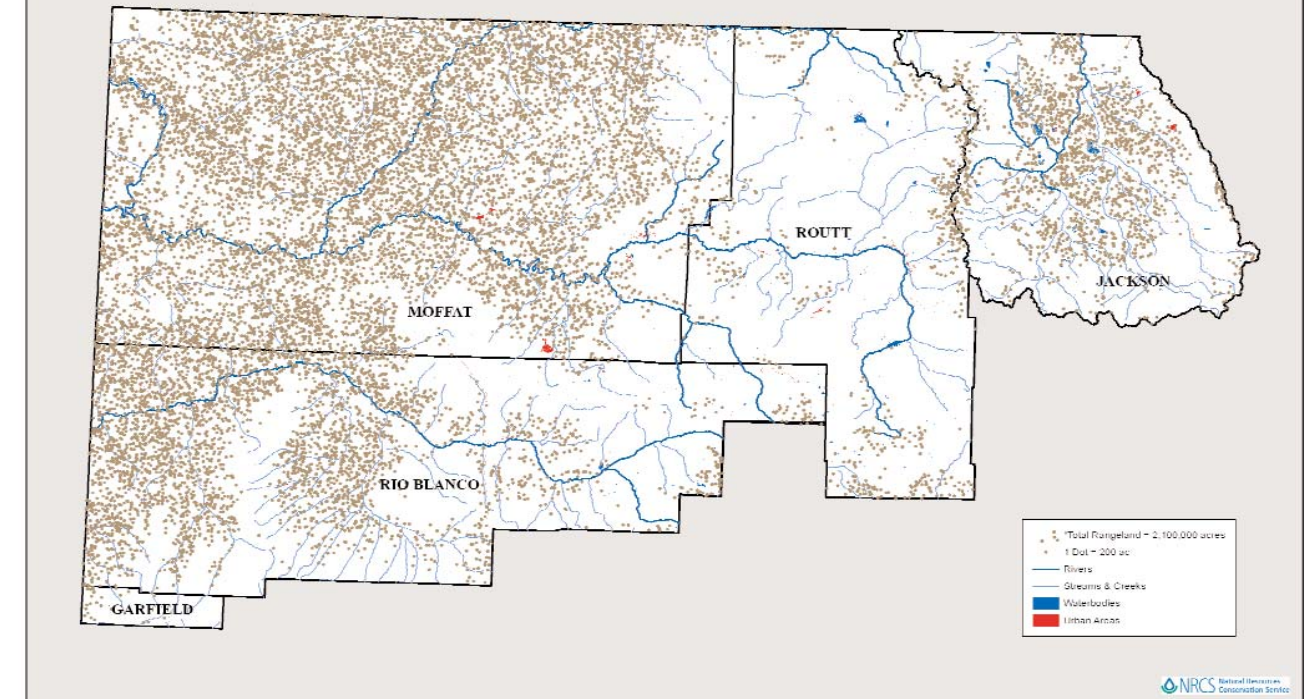


7,529,334 Acres

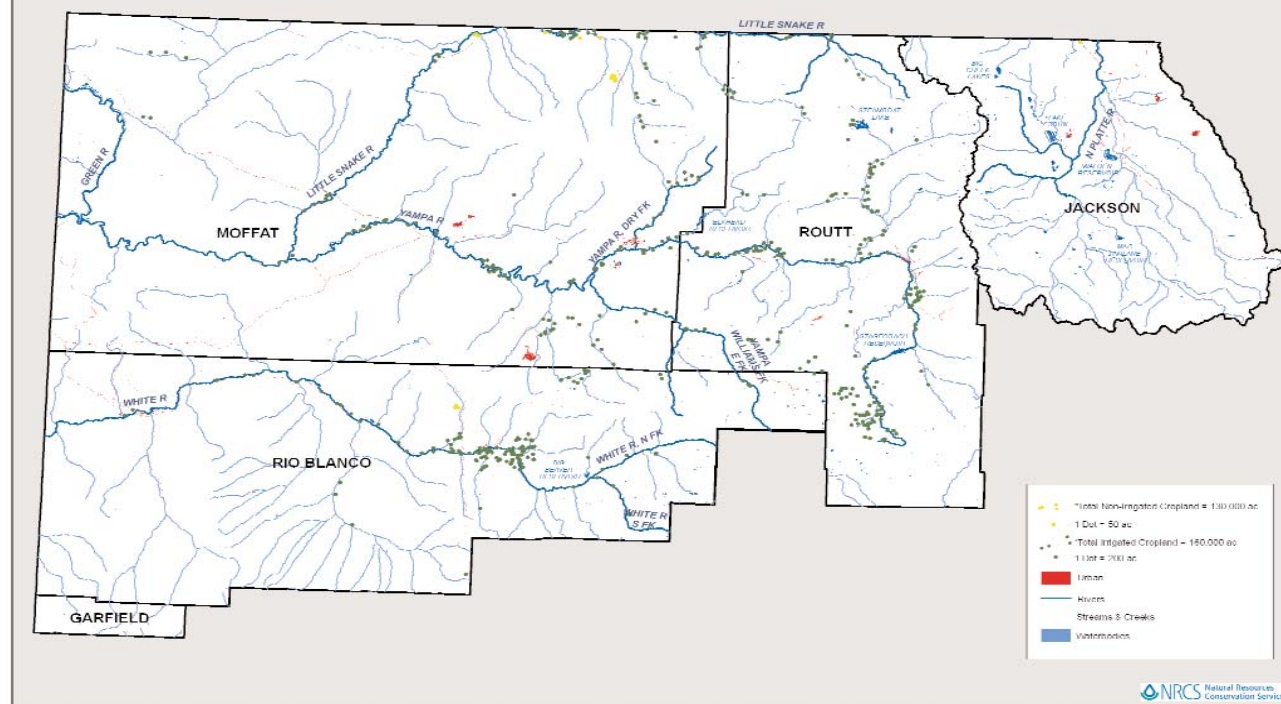
Acres

Irrigated Cropland160,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland130,000
Rangeland2,100,000
Irrigated Hay & Pasture65,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture . .129,200
Forestland400,000
Urban15,000
CRP70,134
Federal Lands4,460,000

North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed - Rangeland



North Platte-White-Yampa Watershed - Cropland



North Platte-White-Yampa Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall

